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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Musick et al. :
Application No. 09/479,432 : **ON PETITION**
Filed: January 7, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. IL-10443 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b), filed January 10, 2005, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No further petition fee is required for the request. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

The above-identified application became abandoned as a result of petitioner's failure to file an appeal brief (and fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c)) within the time period provided in 37 CFR 1.192(a). As an appeal brief (and appeal brief fee) was not filed within two (2) months of the Notice of Appeal filed May 6, 2004, and no extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(b) were obtained, the appeal was dismissed and the proceedings as to the rejected claims were terminated. See 37 CFR 1.192(b) & 1.197(c). As no claim was allowed, the above-identified application became abandoned on July 7, 2004. See MPEP 1215.04.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply,
- (2) the petition fee,
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, and
- (4) a terminal disclaimer and fee if the application was filed on or before June 8, 1995 or if the application is a design application.

Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Commissioner may require additional information.¹

¹ In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.

² See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(C) and (D).

The instant petition lacks item (4). A terminal disclaimer (and fee) is also required for a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, but before May 29, 2000, where the application became abandoned during appeal. The reason being that utility and plant patents issuing on applications filed on or after June 8, 1995, but before May 29, 2000, are eligible for the patent term extension under former 35 U.S.C. 154(b) (as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreement Act (URAA)). If such an application is abandoned during appeal, the patentee of a patent issuing from such an application is eligible for these situations will make certain that any patent term extension obtained for the period of abandonment while the application is under appeal, interference, or a secrecy order will be dedicated to the public.

The instant application was filed on January 7, 2000. Accordingly, a terminal disclaimer and requisite fee are required before the application can be revived. A blank terminal disclaimer form has been enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a request to change the address of record should be filed. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
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By hand: Customer Window located at:

 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (703) 872-9306
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.



Liana Chase
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

Enclosure: PTO/SB/63 – Terminal Disclaimer

CC: JOHN P. WOOLDRIDGE
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